

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045327

47

ORIGIN CEQ-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-05 AID-05 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-11 L-03

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02

FEAE-00 INT-05 SMI-01 /113 R

DRAFTED BY CEQ:JJMANDROS

APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:LGRANT

OES/ENP:JGBURKE

EA/IMS:W SHEPARD

FWS - T. STRIEGLER

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R 251711Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A - TAGS: SENV, SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE FOLLOW-UP TO CEQ CHAIRMAN PETERSON

VISIT RE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION AND

TRANSSHIPMENT OF WILDLIFE

REF: SINGAPORE 0517

1. DEPARTMENT AND CEQ COMMEND EMBASSY INITIATIVE PARA 5

REFTEL, PROPOSING REPRESENTATION TO GOS AUTHORITIES

REGARDING ISSUE OF TRANSSHIPMENT OF WILDLIFE, INCLUDING

ENDANGERED SPECIES. APPROACH MADE DURING PETERSON/

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PAGE 02 STATE 045327

TALBOT VISIT PROVIDES USEFUL FOLLOW-UP OPPORTUNITY TO

STRESS IMPORTANCE OF GOS RATIFICATION THIS IMPORTANT
U.S. INITIATED CONVENTION. DEPARTMENT DEFERS TO
EMBASSY AS TO LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AT THIS TIME BUT
WOULD LIKE TO STRESS TO THE GOS THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S.
PLACES ON GOS AND OTHERS SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLES FOR
WHICH THE CONVENTION STANDS.

2. DR. TALBOT AT CEQ PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND
WHICH MAY BE USEFUL IN PREPARING EMBASSY PRESENTATION
TO GOS AUTHORITIES: ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION
(TEXT BEING AIRSHIPPED) REQUIRES RATIFYING STATES TO
ESTABLISH BOTH MANAGEMENT AND SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY,
TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION ON SPECIES

(ANIMAL AND PLANT) BEING SHIPPED -- I.E. IMPORTED,
EXPORTED OR TRANSSHIPPED. SPECIES LISTED APPENDIX 1
ARE PROHIBITED FROM MOST TRADE; THOSE IN APPENDIX 2
REQUIRE PERMIT "ACCOUNTING," HENCE THE PERMITS, ETC.

3. INFORMATION RECEIVED BY CEQ INDICATES THAT SINGAPORE
AUTHORITIES IN THE PAST REPORTEDLY SAID THEY LACKED
EXPERTISE OR TIME TO DEVELOP THE NECESSARY "AUTHORITIES"
AND PERMIT ORGANIZATION. UNLESS THEY DO SO, MUCH OF
THEIR TRADE IN ANIMALS, ANIMAL PARTS AND PRODUCTS WILL
BE STOPPED, SINCE NATIONS WHICH HAVE RATIFIED THE
CONVENTION AGREE NOT TO IMPORT OR OTHERWISE TRADE
SPECIES WITH NON-RATIFYING STATES UNLESS THEY PROVIDE
FOR SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME CERTIFICATION REQUIRED BY
THE CONVENTION.

4. THE ISSUE AT HAND IS THAT OF SINGAPORE SERVING AS
A TRANSSHIPMENT POINT FOR ENDANGERED OR RARE SPECIES
WHICH ARE OFTEN OBTAINED ILLEGALLY FROM OTHER
COUNTRIES AND "LAUNDERED" THROUGH SINGAPORE. THE
U.S. HAS BEEN A MAJOR BUYER OF THESE. MOST ARE EITHER
ON APPENDIX 1 OR 2. CONSEQUENTLY, UNLESS SINGAPORE
ADHERES TO THE CONVENTION OR ESTABLISHES SUBSTANTIALLY
SIMILAR PERMIT ARRANGEMENTS, HER ANIMAL, ANIMAL PARTS
AND PRODUCTS TRADE IN SPECIES COVERED BY THE
CONVENTION WITH THE U.S. AND OTHER RATIFYING STATES
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 045327

WILL COME TO A HALT.

5. COMMENT: SINGAPORE HAS PROFESSEDLY BEEN TRYING TO
CURB SMUGGLING, ALTHOUGH CEQ IS AWARE OF ADVERTISEMENTS
FROM SINGAPORE ANIMAL DEALERS (AS RECENT AS SUMMER
1975) CONTINUING TO OFFER ILLEGAL ANIMALS FOR SALE.
GOS RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY
IMPROVE SINGAPORE'S IMAGE WITH INTERNATIONAL

CONSERVATION AS WELL AS TRADE AUTHORITIES. RATIFICATION WOULD ALSO PROVIDE GOS AUTHORITIES WITH NECESSARY BASIS TO CURB SMUGGLING SINCE HER OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTEDLY SAID THEY ARE DOING THEIR UTMOST WITHIN THEIR PRESENT SCOPE OF AUTHORITY TO CONTROL SMUGGLING VIA ILLEGAL TRANSSHIPMENT. IN SUM, THE CONVENTION WOULD REQUIRE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE AUTHORITY AND MECHANISMS THROUGH PERMITS, ETC. TO ENFORCE ITS PROVISIONS, THUS PROVIDING GOS A RESPECTABLE SOLUTION TO WHAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REMAIN AN UGLY INTERNATIONAL ISSUE WHICH COULD BE OF EVEN GREATER EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GOS IN FUTURE. END COMMENT. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR MESSAGE TREATING "LAUNDERING" PROBLEM FOLLOWS SEPTEL. KISSINGER

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